

LOL-HECO-IR-85

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Question(s):

Does HECO have any official or unofficial guide and/or restriction on the minimum distances between HECO's placement of 46kV lines and existing residential buildings? Please elaborate.

HECO Response:

Because of franchise rights, it is HECO's general policy to place its 46kV underground lines within the public right-of-way (City or State streets). Placement of the lines within private property would require HECO to obtain an easement from the property owner, which we generally try to avoid. Considering that the 46kV underground lines are placed within the public right-of-way, and by City building code, owners need to maintain a certain setback between its building and its property line (where the private property meets the public right-of-way), the minimum distance which HECO would install its underground ductline to the front of a residential unit would be the amount of setback, as required by law.

However, it is HECO's general practice to place underground lines within the paved roadways, wherever possible, instead of the sidewalk area. Thus, in actual practice, generally the minimum distance between an underground line and a residential building would be the distance between the front wall of the building and the edge of the paved right-of-way.

HECO designers follow design standards, as set forth and approved by the Public Utilities Commission. For example, in PUC General Order No. 10 ("G.O. 10"), the minimum clearances which new underground cables need to maintain with foreign substructures is 36" in parallel. (See G.O. 10, paragraph 33.4 A.(3)(a).) Due to the locations of HECO's underground

ducts in relation to any residential units, the setback distances are greater than the minimums specified in G.O. 10.